

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, November 12, 2004*

## 6D OFFICER RECOGNIZED FOR “WEED AND SEED” INITIATIVE IN MARSHALL HEIGHTS

The Marshall Heights community, part of Police Service Area (PSA) 604 in Southeast DC, is designated a “Weed and Seed” community by the US Department of Justice. Weed and Seed is a project designed to aid communities that are plagued with drugs, violence and disorder to regain control and build a better future for their communities. In July, the Justice Department allocated special funding for this effort, which left only 13 weeks for the desperately needed initiative to take effect. PSA 604 Officer Ronald Burgeson dedicated himself to the mission of liberating the Weed and Seed site of the drug dealers, users and other criminals who were holding back an otherwise healthy neighborhood. Officer Burgeson knew that his primary mission would be to clean up the intersection of Central and Southern Avenues, SE – the epicenter of drug and drug-related crime in the Weed and Seed area. He worked closely with police officers from Prince George’s County, as well as 6D’s Focused Mission Team and the Major Narcotics Branch, to conduct a number of “buy-bust” and other drug abatement operations that resulted in the seizure of drugs and weapons. Drug Free Zones were implemented on back-to-back weekends to send the message that the police were serious about cleaning up the area. For his efforts, Officer Burgeson was harassed, threatened and even victimized (the paint on his personal vehicle was damaged). Yet, Officer Burgeson persevered, and the Marshall Heights community is better for his efforts. He was one of 14 MPD members honored during the November CHAMPS awards ceremony.

① Learn about the outstanding actions of all of these officers at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2004/11.shtml>

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The November awards luncheon was hosted by the Washington Terrace Hotel in Northwest.

① For more information about the federal Weed and Seed program, visit:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo>

## TERROR THREAT LEVEL IN DC LOWERED TO YELLOW

The Department of Homeland Security this week lowered the terror threat level for the financial sectors of DC, New York City and northern New Jersey back to Yellow (Elevated), which promoted the MPDC to lower its emergency threat level as well. The threat level had been raised to Orange (High) in early August, following information suggesting that terrorists may be targeting financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group in DC. In response, the MPDC established a special detail, staffed by officers working in an overtime capacity, near the organizations’ buildings in Northwest DC. In addition, the MPDC’s Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC) was activated, and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in the immediately vicinity were turned on. With the lowering of the threat level, the MPDC has eliminated the overtime detail, but will continue to give the area “special attention” with regular patrol officers. In addition, the JOCC and CCTV cameras have been deactivated, and special scheduling policies for officers have been removed. The US Capitol Police will replace round-the-clock vehicle checks on streets around the Capitol with more random checks; First Street, NE, between the Capitol and the Supreme Court will remain closed, however. Throughout the latest Orange alert, the MPDC maintained full staffing of neighborhood patrols, which will continue under the Yellow alert.

① Read the Department of Homeland Security’s news release at:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4107>

① For information about emergency preparedness and homeland security in DC, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/emergencypreparedness.shtml>

① Details on the MPDC’s CCTV program are available at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtml>  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/wyc.shtml>

## LISTSERVS HELPING TO PROMOTE COMMUNICATIONS IN SEVERAL POLICE DISTRICTS

In early September, fewer than 40 people had subscribed to the Third District Substation (3D-1) community listserv. Seven weeks later, membership had more than tripled. In the Sixth District, nearly 100 members of the community, the MPDC and District government have joined the 6D community listserv for online dialogue to address nuisance issues and crime concerns in the area. These are just two examples of the growing use of police- and community-sponsored listservs for sharing information, identifying crime and disorder problems, and finding possible solutions. The community listservs are generally created using Yahoo!® Groups. Once the web pages are set up and residents join the listserv, they can receive all messages posted to the site via e-mail or by visiting the website. For areas that do use the electronic online communication tool, the level of community satisfaction with the police department is growing higher with each success. For example, the 6D listserv has been credited with helping to combat illegal U-turns in a busy area of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, and increasing community participation in crime prevention events. In 3D-1, the community listserv brought out people to a recent candlelight vigil and was used to update the community on recent changes in staffing.

## OCTOBER DATA SHOW CONTINUED REDUCTIONS IN AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING, RED LIGHT RUNNING

Aggressive speeding in DC's photo radar enforcement zones reached a record low rate in October. For the first time, just under 4 percent of all vehicles monitored by photo radar were found to be traveling above the threshold speed established for the program – down from the previous low of 4.2 percent recorded in August and September 2004. By comparison, the aggressive speeding rate was 31 percent in July 2001 (initial warning period) and 25.5 percent in August 2001 (first month of ticketing). Over the past three years, aggressive speeding on DC roadways monitored by photo radar has been dramatically reduced, from almost 1 in 3 motorists speeding aggressively in July 2001 to about 1 in 25 motorists in recent months. In addition, average speeds on all DC roadways – residential streets, arteries and highways – are substantially lower today than they were when the program began three years ago. Since August 2001, more than 1.1 million Notices of Infraction have been mailed and approximately 824,000 paid, resulting in fines of just over \$62 million. This level of consistent enforcement has been achieved without taking officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Child Safety Seat Inspections.** The MPDC and the District Department of Transportation are holding free child safety seat inspections in locations across the District every Saturday through December 18. For more information, including the locations for each event, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2950>.

**New Phone Numbers for 6D-1.** The Sixth District Substation in Southeast has new phone numbers for the station desk and other personnel. To access the complete roster for 6D and 6D-1, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/6th/roster.shtm>.

**Agency, Citywide Calendar Information.** Want to know what's going on in your police district? Or the city as a whole. Visit the new citywide calendar on the dc.gov website at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/calendarinfo.shtm>.

① For more information on the use of community policing listservs, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/city/ss\\_listserv\\_1104.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/city/ss_listserv_1104.shtm)

① Community groups in several DC neighborhoods have established general community listservs that cover a range of neighborhood issues, including crime. For information on Yahoo Groups, go to:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com>

① For more photo radar results, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults\\_text.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speedresults_text.shtm)

① The incidence of red light running at the 39 locations equipped with intersection safety cameras is down more than 73 percent, according to the latest data. Details at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm>

### DATA BOX

|                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Homicides</b>                    | <b>as of 11/12/04</b>    |
| ◆ 2004: 174                         |                          |
| ◆ 2003: 214                         |                          |
| ◆ % Change: -18.7%                  |                          |
| ◆ Closure Rate: 54.0% (94 closures) |                          |
| <b>Adult Arrests</b>                | <b>week end. 11/6/04</b> |
| ◆ Total: 884                        |                          |
| ◆ Drugs: 147                        |                          |
| ◆ Weapons: 28                       |                          |
| ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 15           |                          |
| ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 43     |                          |
| <b>Juvenile Activity</b>            | <b>week end. 11/6/04</b> |
| ◆ Arrests: 54                       |                          |
| ◆ Curfew Violations: 12             |                          |
| ◆ Truants: 120                      |                          |
| <b>Firearm Recoveries</b>           | <b>as of 11/10/04</b>    |
| ◆ November: 64                      |                          |
| ◆ 2004 Total: 1,743                 |                          |
| <b>Traffic Fatalities</b>           | <b>as of 11/12/04</b>    |
| ◆ 2004: 40                          |                          |
| ◆ 2003: 58                          |                          |
| ◆ % Change: -31.8%                  |                          |

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**